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COPY NO. 14

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 9, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD ASSISTANTS

SUBJECT: Report of the Working Group Formed to Recommend Disposition
of PSB D-8b and PSB D-11b

25X1A I enclose for discussion at the Friday Board Assistants meeting and possible consideration of the Board at its next meeting a report of the working group which was formed to recommend disposition of PSB D-8b and PSB D-11b. For your information, an exchange of memoranda between Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] is also enclosed. 25X1A

As a basis for discussion I suggest that the Board should take the following action with respect to the recommendations of the working group:

1. Approve paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5 and refer them to the same working group for action.
2. Direct the working group to draft a progress report on the implementation of NSC 127/1 and the portions of NSC 59/1 which relate to NSC 127/1, to be submitted to OCB by February 1, 1954, for consideration and possible transmission to the NSC.
3. Direct the working group to include in the above progress report a formulation of the actual changes it feels to be necessary in NSC 127/1 and in NSC 59/1 in so far as that relates to NSC 127/1, such as those suggested in paragraph 1 of the working group recommendations. 25X1A

[REDACTED]
Acting Deputy Executive Officer

Enclosures:

1. Recommendations of the Working Group, Copy No. 14, 25X1A
2. Copy of memo to [REDACTED] 12/1/53, Subj: PSB D-8b and PSB D-11b. Copy No. 14, 25X1A
3. Copy of memo to [REDACTED] 12/4/53, Subj: PSB D-8b and PSB D-11b. Copy No. 14.

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RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO PSB D-8b, "PLAN FOR CONDUCTING PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS DURING GENERAL HOSTILITIES" (DATED FEBRUARY 21, 1952, AND APPROVED, AFTER AMENDMENT, AS NSC 127/1, JULY 25, 1952), AND PSB D-11b, "NATIONAL OVERT PROPAGANDA POLICY GUIDANCE FOR GENERAL WAR," DATED NOVEMBER 15, 1951

1. That the Planning Board of the National Security Council be advised that NSC 127/1, "Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations During General Hostilities," requires revision in order:

(a) to reflect the abolition of the Psychological Strategy Board and the establishment of the United States Information Agency;

(b) to amend the assumption so that it applies to situations in which the armed forces of the United States are engaged in hostilities at the direction of the President as well as to general hostilities forced upon the United States and its allies by the USSR or any of its Satellites;

(c) to incorporate as appropriate provisions or suitable revisions thereof of NSC 59/1, "The Foreign Information Program and Psychological Warfare Planning," pertaining to the formulation of national psychological warfare policy in time of national emergency and the initial stages of war.

2. That the Plans drafted by the subcommittee (X-Day Working Group) of the Psychological Operations Coordinating Committee in compliance with and support of NSC 59/1 and NSC 127/1 be referred to the Operations Coordinating Board for possible utilization and revision after the proposed revision of NSC 127/1.

3. That, in order that all plans may be reviewed, the Department of State withdraw from the Department of Defense the Plan X-II-A, submitted for approval on September 9, 1952.

4. That because of the need for assured inter-departmental coordination in the event of hostilities or general war, inter-departmental planning should be carried on by a working group consisting of representatives of the USIA, the Department of Defense, the CIA and the Department of State, under the direction of the OCB, and completed as rapidly as possible.

5. That the "National Overt Propaganda Policy Guidance for General War" be referred to a subcommittee of the Operations Coordinating Board for revision in order:

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(a) to incorporate material, particularly under Objective Number 6, more closely relevant to the possibility of a heavy atomic strike on the United States;

(b) to eliminate dated references, particularly under Objective Number Two, to Stalin as the leader of International Communism;

(c) to include material, particularly under Objective Numbers Two and Three, relevant to the possible participation of Communist China in hostilities;

(d) otherwise to reflect relevant national policy as set forth in approved papers of the NSC and the PSB, including the proposed revision of NSC 127/1.

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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

December 1, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert Cutler
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: PSB D-8b and PSB D-11b

An CCB working group has been following through on recommendations with regard to PSB D-8b, "Plan for Conducting Psychological Operations During General Hostilities" dated February 21, 1952, and approved as NSC 127/1, July 25, 1952. The same group has been giving study to PSB D-11b, "National Overt Propaganda Policy Guidance for General War" dated November 15, 1951.

A general question of procedure arises with respect to further activity by the working group pending discussions by the NSC Planning Board of possible revision of NSC 127/1 and NSC 59/1. The working group in paragraph 2 of the attachment has suggested that the plans drafted by the subcommittee of the PCCC with respect to NSC 59/1 and 127/1 be referred to the CCB following certain proposed revisions of NSC 127/1 incorporated as paragraph 1 of their recommendations.

If it is felt that these revisions are more or less non-controversial, I would see no particular difficulty with the recommendation of the working group and for having the matter placed before the CCB for formal concurrence. This would permit the working group to continue in order that as comprehensive reports as possible could be made periodically to the NSC. I don't believe we have so much a question here of jurisdiction between the Planning Board and an CCB working group, as we have one of timing and instructions to the working group. My own inclination would be to have the matter placed before the CCB for action at an early meeting and instruct the working group to submit a progress report to the NSC at an early date, which report might provide a better basis for determining whether a revision of NSC 127/1 and NSC 59/1 is required.

25X1A

Executive Officer

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

December 4, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board

SUBJECT: PSB D-8b and PSB D-11b.

I understand from your memorandum, dated December 1, that the OCB working group charged with responsibility for NSC 127/1 and PSB D-11b has raised a question of procedure with respect to OCB consideration of certain plans formerly drafted by a subcommittee of the PCCC, on the grounds that certain changes should be made in NSC 127/1 previous to any such action.

I concur with your view that since the relative changes recommended do not appear to be controversial, the plans in question could be referred to OCB before such a revision of NSC 127/1 takes place.

I believe that it would be helpful for the working group, while in the course of its study and consideration, to formulate in detail the actual changes it feels to be necessary in NSC 127/1, and in NSC 59/1 insofar as that relates to NSC 127/1, for inclusion in the progress report on this former to be submitted to the NSC.

/s/ Robert Cutler

Robert Cutler
Special Assistant
to the President

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